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SECRECY DEFENDED**CIA Should Be
Unshackled,
Says Its Chief**

The federal government "went a little overboard" in placing restrictions on the Central Intelligence Agency following investigations in 1975 and 1976, and the "shackles" on intelligence gathering should be lifted,

Admiral Stansfield Turner, CIA director, said here Saturday.



Calling his visit "something that might not have been possible four or five years ago," Turner discussed with an Indianapolis audience the dilemma of balancing the CIA's accountability with its need for secrecy.

Turner said that "perhaps the most significant trend" in intelligence gathering is that the CIA has "undergone more scrutiny" in recent years than ever before.

Turner

HE SAID THE CIA survived this scrutiny, which he called "traumatic," while insisting the agency must preserve its secrecy, especially because intelligence operations are needed now more than ever before. "The CIA is and should be a secretive agency," Turner stated.

But Turner admitted there must be a balance because "secrecy can lead to unidentified power" which has a particular potential for abuse.

He said the ways to achieve this are not by underreacting and assuming that the "limited" abuses of the past will not be repeated, or by overreacting and "handcuffing ourselves out of business."

The answer lies in a "system of accountability" to the legislative and executive branches of government, and to the public, he said.

"We have found that we can do this," Turner stated, adding that the CIA has developed a "deliberate policy" of being more open. But he called for legislation to govern disclosure of classified information and to deal with "those few scurrilous people who deliberately disclose" names of agents or intelligence information.

TURNER SAID he supports a charter introduced into the Congress last week designed to delineate the CIA's authority.

Turner's appearance at the Airport Sheraton Inn was sponsored by Sen. Birch E. Bayh (D-Ind.), who is chairman of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and several military and veterans' organizations.